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EDITORIAL

Resist the US imperialist war machine and fascist aggression

The year had just started when fascist madman Donald Trump, president of the US, accelerated the imperialist war machine. On January 3, it simultaneously bombed Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, and other neighboring regions, and launched a military operation to abduct President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, to forcibly bring them to the US.

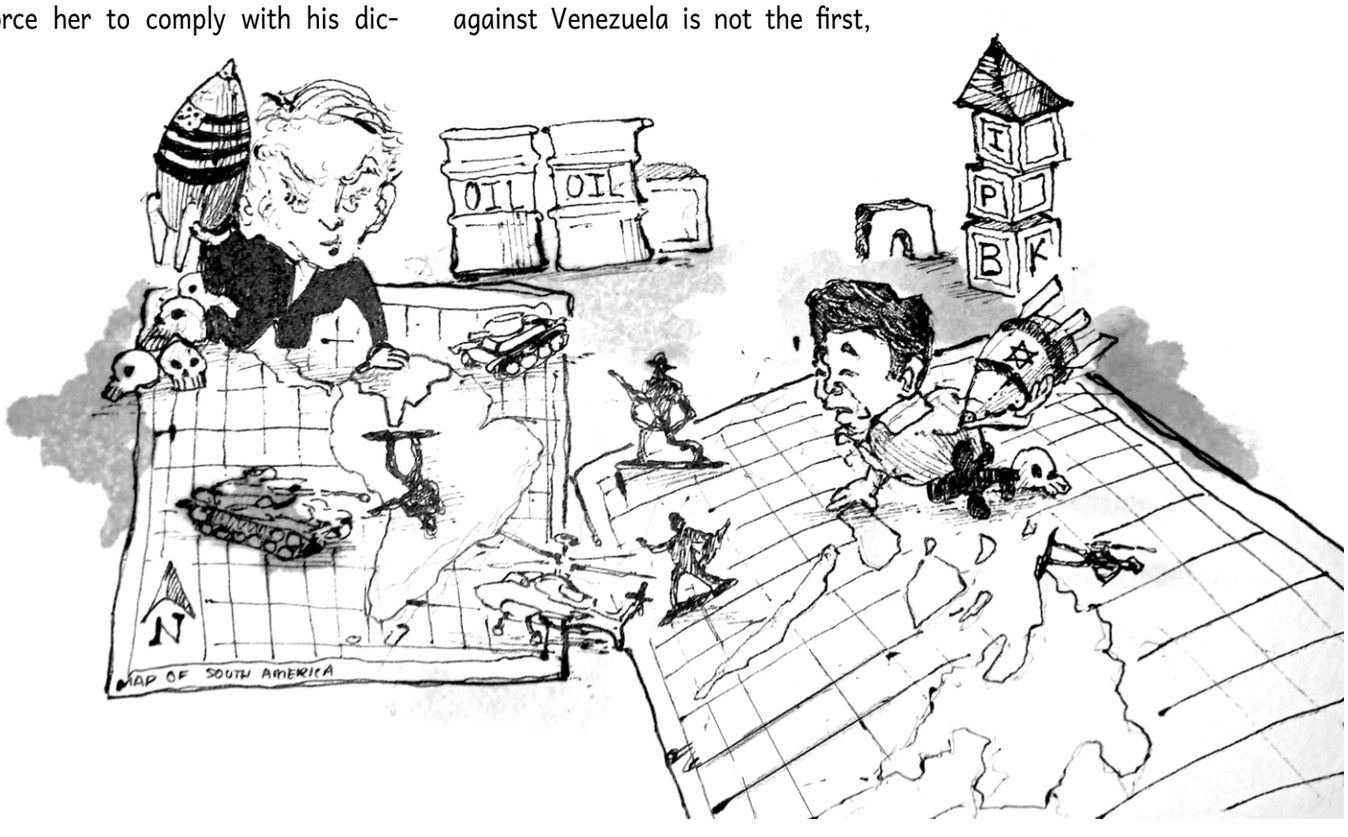
Trump weaved various accusations against Maduro, such as the imagined "drug cartel" that he allegedly leads, to justify the blatant illegal operation. However, the whole world knows the real reason: Venezuela's oil, which Trump covets and claims as "theirs." Trump admitted later, "We will run Venezuela and control its oil."

The imperialist attack on a country defending its sovereignty is a brazen armed aggression for plunder. After abducting President Maduro, Trump is now threatening his successor, Delcy Rodriguez, to force her to comply with his dictates. The Venezuelan people are now united in rising up and resisting. In the streets, they shout in unison, "Give us back Maduro!"

Many countries have widely condemned the US attack for violating international laws and the UN charter. Even US allies and fellow imperialists have expressed "concern," but they choose to stand idly by. There are also US-backed groups that are "worried" about US aggression, but they remain silent and tacitly approve of the US kidnapping of anti-imperialist Maduro.

The US military aggression against Venezuela is not the first, and will certainly not be the last, trampling of sovereign nations around the world. Since the end of World War II, the US has invaded, occupied, intervened, assassinated leaders, staged coups, installed and supported US-backed fascist dictatorships in at least 30 countries, mostly in Latin America, as well as in Asia, including the Middle East. The US is also currently threatening Iran, which, like Venezuela, is rich in oil and has chosen to nationalize it. The fascist madman is also threatening Mexico, Canada and Greenland.

Under Trump's newly signed National Security Strategy (NSS), it declared its intention to make the US military "the most powerful and most lethal." Trump announced plans to reestablish dominance in Latin America, which they consider



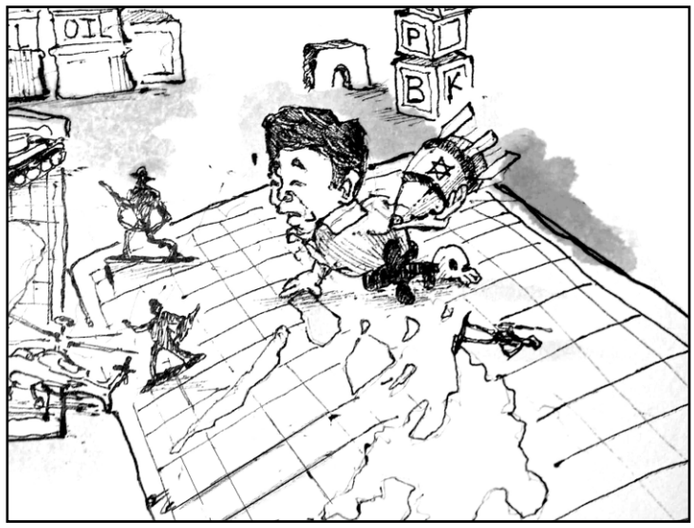
"our backyard". This is a threat against Cuba, Colombia, Brazil, and other countries that promote their right to self-determination.

The brazen US aggression against Venezuela is a new level of escalation of US fascist terrorism, in the face of intensifying imperialist contradictions. The fascist Trump has shown that there is no law that can stop his insanity. The US rivals and allies are increasingly worried that the US will use Venezuela's oil as a political and economic weapon against them, in the form of influencing global supply and prices.

Led by the US, global military spending is increasing. Imperialist Japan has entered a new level of militarization with an unprecedented level of military production. Military spending by imperialist countries in Europe is also increasing. Although US allies in NATO, France and Germany oppose the US-backed agreement with Ukraine, as it gives the US excessive control over the country's resources, to the disadvantage of European imperialists.

The deepening crisis of imperialism is marked by the intensifying struggle of major powers for sources of cheap raw materials and dumping ground for surplus capital in the form of loans and investments. Territorial disputes are the reason for the escalating wars around the world, from the US proxy war in Ukraine against Russia, the US and Zionist Israel's crushing of Gaza, the imperialist siege of Syria, the US bombing of Yemen and Somalia, and the US rivalry with China in the South China Sea.

In this context, the heightening presence of US military forces in the Philippines, the proliferation of US military bases across the country, the deployment of heavy weapons, the constant patrol of US naval forces in the country's waters, the non-stop military exercises, and provocations in Taiwan can be fully understood. The US has established Task Force Philippines to tighten its control over the Armed Forces of the Philippines and solidify the main pillar of its rule in the Philippines. Over the next five years, the US plans to provide up to $2.5 billion in military aid until 2030.



All of these have nothing to do with "upholding the rule of law" or "freedom of navigation" in the seas. After the US showed its disregard for international law in Venezuela, only the foolish and blind followers of the US (the AFP, Marcos, and groups like Akbayan) would applaud the US for acting like the global police in the South China Sea.

Even more, US military presence have nothing to do with the claims of defending the Philippines' freedom. On the contrary, the increasing presence of American soldiers and other foreign troops in the Philippines is the greatest trampling of the country's sovereignty. Not only is the US using the country for its imperialist interests, it is also dragging the Philippines into a war that is against the interests of the people. It is strengthening the AFP to serve as its tool in suppressing the people's resistance.

In the face of intensifying imperialist conflicts, military aggression, fascism, and war-mongering by US imperialism, the Filipino people must intensify their struggle for genuine freedom and democracy. At the same time, they must unite with the broadest ranks of people around the world to resist the global advance of war and fascism. AB

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Venezuelan people defend Maduro and their sovereignty

On January 3 itself, the day the US military forces invaded Venezuela and abducted its president Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, the rebellious Venezuelan people flooded the streets. They denounced the attack against their sovereignty and demanded the immediate return of their president and first combatant.

"This attack aims no other than to seize Venezuela's strategic resources, particularly oil and minerals, in an attempt to destroy the country's political independence. They will not succeed," the Venezuelan government said in its first official statement after the aggression. It firmly rejected and condemned the military aggression that targeted the country's territory and various civilian and military facilities. The attack reportedly killed more than 80 Venezuelans.

Hours after the abduction, Donald Trump arrogantly declared that the US would now "run" Venezuela, including its vast oil resources. Oil-hungry and resource-greedy countries in the European Union, as well as Japan, Australia, and other US puppet states fully supported the removal of Maduro. They immediately called for a "peaceful transition" to install a puppet state that would open Venezuela for large oil companies to plunder. This was also supported by social-democratic groups that pretended to oppose aggression but joined the chorus in justifying Maduro's abduction.

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemned the US imperialist military aggression in Venezuela. It called Trump a "fascist madman" for ordering the Venezuelan invasion. According to the Party, this would surely ignite the Venezuelan people's patriotic outrage.

Unyielding resolve

Venezuelans cry "¡Maduro, aguanta, que el pueblo se levanta!" (Maduro, hold fast, the people are rising!) in the streets. Hundreds of thousands poured into Caracas and other parts of the country to express their support and convey their love for Maduro and Flores, calling the latter the nation's "first combatant." They burned US flags.

"May the extremists understand that the bombs they asked for (from the US) killed and will kill all Venezuelans, Chavista or not," a protester said. The "extremists" he referred to were parties funded by the US and led by its figurehead Maria Machado. Machado had long called for a US invasion of Venezuela to overthrow the Maduro government and install herself and her collaborators in power. Nevertheless, Trump did not place her in office. Machado's fellow citizens deeply abhor her.

On January 4, Venezuela vice president Delcy Rodriguez took her oath as interim president, in accordance with the country's constitution. The armed forces also mobilized the extensive militia they had built to defend the motherland.

International support

The US aggression and the abduction of Maduro and Flores drew swift and vehement condemnation across Latin America, Africa, and other countries. Cuba, Nicaragua, and Colombia immediately stood up for Maduro and Venezuela. Brazil, Uruguay, and Mexico strongly opposed the invasion. They viewed the aggression as an attack not only on Venezuela but on the entire Latin America and the countries resisting US imperialist hegemony. In these countries, people poured into the streets to express their solidarity with the Venezuelans.

Simultaneous rallies were held in front of US embassies in Germany, Spain, Belgium, France, Greece, and Turkey. In the US, Americans denounced their own government's aggression through protests outside the White House, in New York (where Maduro was taken), and in several other cities.

In the Philippines, progressive groups led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Philippine-Bolivarian Venezuela Friendship Association marched to the US embassy in Manila on January 5. They condemned the US aggression and expressed their support for the Venezuelan people and their government. AB

CPP 57th anniversary celebrations, a slap on the face of the US-Marcos regime

Celebrations marking the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)'s 57th anniversary in the country and overseas prove the continued perseverance of the entire revolutionary movement. The US-Marcos regime received a strong slap on the face everywhere that the red flag with the golden hammer and sickle was raised in various areas to honor the Party's nearly six decades of leadership in the people's democratic revolution in the Philippines.

Party branches and committees, New People's Army (NPA) units, and National Democratic Front (NDF) local chapters and allied organizations held the celebrations. Meanwhile, parties and organizations from other countries also sent their greetings to the CPP.

The gatherings discussed the Party's Central Committee's anniversary message. These activities also paid tribute to the people's martyrs over the past decades.

In the guerrilla fronts, NPA Red fighters raised their arms to salute the Party, despite ongoing combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Celebrations of the NPA were reported in Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog, Negros Island, Eastern Visayas, and North Central Mindanao. Other units are expected to hold activities in the coming days.

In Southern Tagalog, the NPA held a series of gatherings in the guerrilla fronts of Batangas, Quezon, and the island of Mindoro. Separate celebrations took place in the islands of Samar and Leyte in Eastern Visayas. In North Central Mindanao, the celebration became an opportunity to consolidate the Red fighters and hold a cultural program. The activity ended near midnight.

Studying the Central Committee's statement reportedly made evident positive impact on the Red fighters. It helped them throw away burdens that weighed down and slowed the significant progress of their respective tasks. During this period, the NPA strictly implemented the Central Committee's ceasefire order for the designated days.

In urban centers and cities, NDF chapters and allies held marches, secret gatherings, paint and sticker operations (OP-OD), and other activities. These began in the third week of December 2025 and continued into January.

In Metro Manila, marches were held in Manila and Pasay City consecutively on December 21 and 22, 2025. Groups who participated in the protests included Kabataang Makabayan (KM, or Patriotic Youth), Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan (Armas, or People's Artists and Writers), Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka, or Patriotic Movement of New Women), Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions, Makabayang Kawaning Pilipino (Patriotic Filipino Employees), and Compatriots.

In Central Luzon, a gathering was held on December 26, 2025 at an undisclosed location. In Rizal, the NDF held a gathering on December 30, 2025, then hung two large streamers on January 2 in Antipolo City.

Led by Compatriots Philippines, more than 100 people attended a cultural program at a site in Southern Tagalog. Members from Rizal, Bulacan, and Metro Manila, as well as families of the people's martyrs, attended. A few days earlier, the group hung streamers along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

In Australia, Compatriots-NDFP-Australia and Compatriots-KM-Narmm launched a gathering and sticker operation. More than 300 people joined the NDF International Office online broadcast to read the Central Committee's statement.

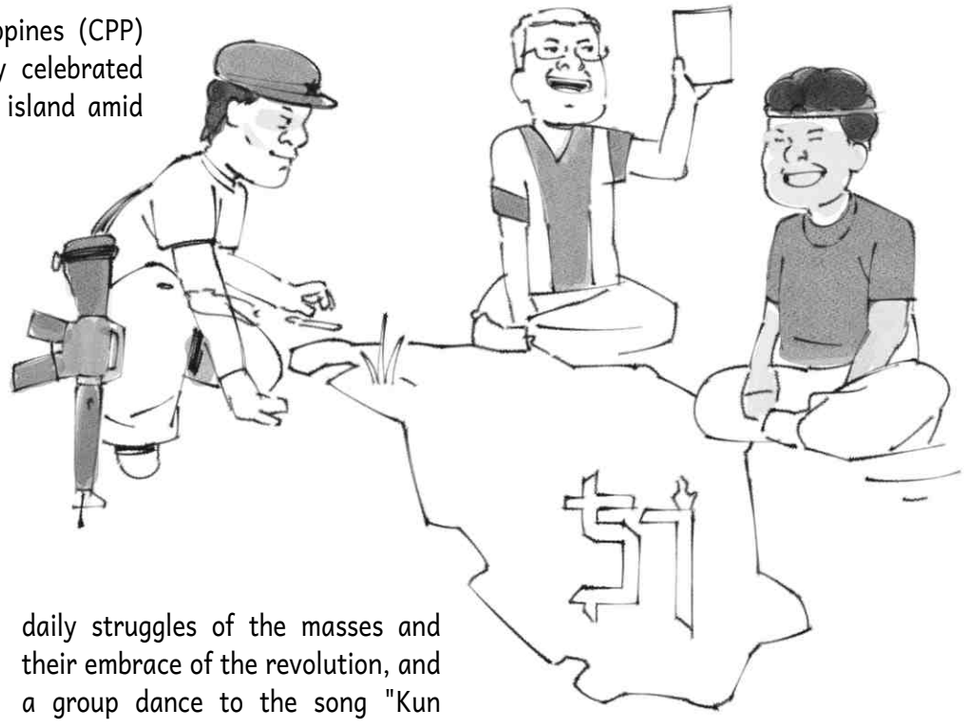
"The perseverance and dedication [of the Party] in fulfilling its historic role in advancing the people's cause has inspired and continues to inspire the masses to rise," NDF secretary general Ka Elias Dipasupil said. He added that the Party has further strengthened its leadership of the Filipino masses through the evident perseverance in the ongoing rectification movement.

Many other NDF chapters and allies released statements for the Party's anniversary. AB

Correspondence

PKP@57 celebrated in Mindoro amid intense militarization

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) 57th anniversary was successfully celebrated within the guerrilla zones in Mindoro island amid the relentless operations of the 203rd IBde troops and police. Led by units of the New People's Army-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command), anniversary meetings were launched under the theme of the Central Committee's statement, "Conditions are excellent for further advancing the people's democratic revolution."



Sa Throughout 2025, the NPA-Mindoro and the Mindoreño people resisted the intense counter-revolutionary war on the island. The 203rd IBde and even the 2nd ID repeatedly declared crushing the revolutionary movement in Mindoro by 2025.

The revolutionary forces reviewed the Party's shining history and its successful leadership of the Philippine revolution over 57 years. NPA-Mindoro spokesperson Ka Madaay Gasic reported in a statement that the unit has reached and reactivated 84% of the towns on the island and a significant number of villages through the spirit of rectification and guidance of the Party.

Celebratory meetings

The anniversary meetings discussed the global and national situation, the history of the Party, accounts of victories in the agrarian revolution in Mindoro, and the challenges, calls, and urgent tasks for strengthening the revolutionary movement.

These meetings were invigorated by cultural performances such as the song-and-movement piece "Ang Gabay" (The Guide), the poetic debate "Ang Tunay na Hukbo ng Mamamayan" (The People's Genuine Army), a play depicting the daily struggles of the masses and their embrace of the revolution, and a group dance to the song "Kun Walay BHB" (If There Was No NPA).

The programs also honored the martyrs of the Philippine revolution, including the new heroes who laid down their lives last year.

The peasant masses and indigenous Mangyan people, local mass activists, and visitors from the city attended the celebrations.

A month of preparation

Revolutionary forces celebrated the Party's anniversary throughout the month of December. NPA units held preliminary activities such as cultural events and weekly discussions over coffee. On December 26, 2025 itself, the Party's flag was hoisted in the mass meetings.

To adapt to the military situation and the busy production schedule, the units crafted a plan to hold quick and small-group anniversary meetings anytime and anywhere the local community was free. One unit held an anniversary meeting at a house they passed by while walking from a large gathering. A local mass organization was established there.

Another NPA unit conducted training for residents in a militarized area. This responded to their request to develop the capacity to defend themselves against soldiers and intelligence agents frequently operating in the area.

The masses embrace the revolutionary cause

The Party's month-long anniversary celebration would not have succeeded without the warm and wholehearted support of the masses for the Party's cause. They sustained the activities—from preparing food, fetching water, ensuring security, meeting and guiding visitors to the guerrilla zone, to actively participating in the program.

"The revolution cannot succeed without boldness in mass work," NPA unit member Ka Ruffa said. The villagers and the army joyfully shared a modest feast of chicken meat, pancit, spaghetti, and biko (glutinous rice cake).

"I decided to extend my stay with the unit because I was moved by the army's wholehearted dedication to organizing and improving the masses' lives," young visitor Ka Elias said. AB

Military operations in Mindoro island intensify in the new year

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindoro expressed its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Jerlyn Rose Doydora after she died from an illness triggered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s relentless bombing. Another young researcher, Chantal Anicoche, went missing after being separated from her group during the bombing. The bombardment took place in Sitio Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, on January 1.

Doydora is among those who expressed their intent to interview the indigenous people and farmers in Mindoro as well as the Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA). They sought to understand the masses' concrete situation, the root causes of the armed conflict, and the genuine path towards peace. Doydora was a student of the Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila, while Anicoche was a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the US.

The bombing also killed three Mangyan-Iraya children and injured their mother. It destroyed the livelihood of the indigenous people and peasants in the community. The explosion killed livestock, including two cows and three pigs.

Intense militarization forced 188 families to evacuate and take shelter at Cabacao High School, and 15 families to temporarily stay with their nearby relatives.

Four AFP attack helicopters dropped a total of 12 bombs during the three-hour assault. The military then carried out indiscriminate strafing in the area. These blatantly violates international hum-anitarian law, which stipulates the highest protection for civilian lives and livelihood.

The NPA unit in the area actively defended itself amid the hundreds of AFP-deployed troopers. Two consecutive encounters killed two soldiers and wounded two others. The NPA unit maneuvered away without further losses.

Intense militarization

According to the NDF-Mindoro, the terrorism experienced by Abra de Ilog residents and indigenous people during the new year was only one of the countless human rights violations perpetrated by the AFP, PNP, and CAFGU in their communities over the years.

Around 10 and a half battalions of combined AFP, PNP, and CAFGU forces are currently deployed on the island. These include the 76th IB, 1st IB, 59th IB, and 5th Scout Ranger Battalion under the 203rd IBde and 2nd ID.

These units protect foreign and local comprador bourgeoisie who have been grabbing the Mangyan people's ancestral lands for decades. Colluding with the compradors are the local government and agencies such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The projects planned for construction in Abra de Ilog includes the $25 million natural gas power plant of American company Rise Capital Group Nash Oil, Gas, and Power Inc. Funded by the Asian Development Bank, Alternergy Holdings Corporation also plans to build a 40-megawatt wind farm covering 18,711 hectares in Barangay Wawa.

In Sitio Malatabako, Barangay San Vicente, Pieceland Corporation is forcibly evicting the Mangyan-Iraya from their community. The company plans to build a subdivision on the 36-hectare ancestral land.

Meanwhile, in Barangay Monteclaro, San Jose, the Mangyan-Buhid community has long suffered from land grabbing. This area hosts quarrying and mining operations under the military- protected Tamaraw Reservation Expansion Project.

According to NDF-Mindoro, despite the state's all-out terrorism, the people of Mindoro continue to fight courageously for their welfare and rights. Their struggle proves their enduring aspiration for social justice, freedom, and democracy.

AB

IN SHORT

Abu Obeida
Hudhaifa Samir al-Kahlout

spokesperson of the **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades,** the armed wing of the Palestinian party Hamas, was killed in battle in Gaza in August 2025. He served as spokesperson for 20 years.

His martyrdom was confirmed on December 29, 2025, the same day they introduced the new spokesperson who inherited the kuyan (nom de guerre) "Abu Obeida."

7.8M views

were recorded in just one week for various videos featuring members and activities of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army released on the Facebook Page of the Buhay Gerilya Project. Facebook suspended the page on January 3.

17 times did VP Sara Duterte traveled abroad,

mostly to The Netherlands where her father is imprisoned. Her office spent ₱7.47 million for her entourage on these trips since July 2024.

23

typhoons hit the Philippines in 2025, of which 2 were "supertyphoons" (Nando and Uwan), and 2 others causing widespread damage (Tino and Opong); more than 20 million people suffered from floods, destruction of homes, and loss of livelihood.

PRWC, is now on Telegram!

for CPP, NPA, and NDFP statements and updates
https://t.me/prwc_newsroom

for CPP statements and press releases
https://t.me/cppinformationbureau

for Ang Bayan regular and special issues
https://t.me/cpp_angbayan

for daily news
https://t.me/angbayan_ngayon

since the 61st IB, 12th IB, and PNP massacred 9 **Tumandok** tribe leaders and members in Tapaz, Capiz, and Calinog, Iloilo on December 30, 2020; 16 others were illegally arrested that same day

₱1.5 BILLION

cost of the **San Jose Esplanade–Seawall Project,** a flood control project in San Jose de Buenavista, Antique, which the court suspended for its damage to the environment.

Del Monte® Quality

100 years

since the company Del Monte first grabbed the **Bukidnon** Lumad's land, returning not one handful of soil to date.

Challenges in the backward and imperialist-dominated science and technology sector

Revolutionary and progressive scientists, engineers, technologists, professionals, and youth students in the science and technology sector celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB, or Science League for the People) on December 26, 2025. Over the past five decades, the organization has achieved various victories in organizing, participating in the armed struggle, and clarifying issues surrounding science, technology, and their practical role in the revolution. Presently, LAB continues to study the history of its struggle to further reinforce its strengths and correct weaknesses of past years.

The initiatives of LAB include conducting a comprehensive investigation to further develop knowledge within the sector. On the occasion of its anniversary, LAB released a special report regarding the country's state of science and technology. Below summarizes the main points of the investigation.

Imperialist control

Giant imperialist corporations hold a monopoly over capital, research, production, and distribution of science and technology. They control global communication, including the internet and social media (Facebook, Youtube, X/Twitter), as well as giant companies like Meta, Microsoft, and Apple based in the US. They profit from these technologies while using them for surveillance, spying, and disinformation to suppress the people's struggles.

Imperialist powers dictate the direction of global scientific and technological research. They block the advancement of these sectors in semicolonial countries because such development would promote competition that runs counter to imperialist interests and frameworks.

State of science and technology in the Philippines

The Philippines remains a supplier of raw materials and cheap labor, and an importer of finished products and foreign technology.

The expenditure for scientific and technological research and development is very low—only 0.16% of the gross domestic product from 2020 to 2022. The Department of Science and Technology has an extremely small budget (₱28.7 billion in 2025).

Local industry focuses only on product inspection and process modification. The country lacks basic research or product development. Product innovation is hindered, stifling the local sector's creativity. Local technicians remain mere users and mechanics of imported technology.

Agricultural mechanization remains insignificant. Research efforts focus on sustaining dependence on foreign chemicals, fertilizers, seeds, and genetically modified crops (or GMOs) to boost large corporates' profit.

The quality of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is poor. Facilities, laboratories, and qualified teachers are lacking. Few pursue natural sciences due to low wages and lack of job opportunities brought by the absence of basic industries.

Stunted and import-dependent

The Philippines is a dumping ground for old and destructive technologies—from the Green Revolution to nuclear and diesel plants and megadams. The digital infrastructure remains weak. In 2019, 82% of households had no internet access, and the service was slow, with an average speed of 6.05 Mbps, compared to the global average of 11.03 Mbps. Cybercrime, scams, surveillance, and data leaks continue to worsen under laws such as the SIM Registration Act and Cybercrime Prevention Act.

Continue on page 9

New generation of revolutionaries emerge in Eastern Visayas

A new generation of revolutionaries is emerging in Eastern Visayas amid great challenges in advancing the people's democratic revolution. Kabataang Makabayan (KM) in the region continues its efforts to expand membership and establish chapters wherever possible. KM members in the region include Ka Terry, Ka Patrick, Ka Roan, and Ka Owen.

Ka Terry is a college student. She and fellow students face the administration's harassment, red-tagging, and military surveillance. Despite this, she knows they will overcome the challenges of organizing. "With proper preparation, coordination, and mindset, we can overcome the obstacles in organizing," she said.

Perceptive student Ka Patrick became aware of the social situation and joined mass struggles. His recruitment into KM made him realize that joining the group was his next logical step. His lack of experience made it difficult for Ka Patrick to organize his fellow youth. "We still mobilize actions despite the difficulty," he said.

The state's fascism awakened Ka Roan to the path of revolutionary struggle. He was moved as he witnessed how state agents arrested ordinary people fighting for their rights. He became a KM member and dedicated his full time to organizing. They persevered in organizing despite the prevailing fear among many students.

"We resolutely stood our ground and never abandoned our assigned task," he said. They reportedly gained momentum by gathering good practices from elsewhere and adapting them to their own experience.

Ka Owen became aware of social ills after hearing about the military's killing of Chad Booc, a volunteer teacher for Mindanao Lumads. With a deeper understanding of the state's intense fascism, he recently expressed his desire to join a unit of the New People's Army (NPA).

He draws inspiration from his relative who is a member of the people's army. "The NPA is my idol. I've met many young people who are now army members, and I understand their reason. The state itself drives the people to take up arms. This is the only way to change the system," he said.

Adapted from Larab, a revolutionary newspaper in Eastern Visayas. AB

From page 8

US companies continue to amass profits through control of technology and exclusive authority over its supply and pricing. The US has also introduced its military technology into the Philippines in preparation for its inter-imperialist war with China. The puppet Marcos regime allowed the construction of ammunition factories and war material depots despite the dangers these pose to the nation.

Overall, the backward state of agriculture and industry stunts and perpetuates the dependent nature of the science and technology sector. The reactionary state colludes with imperialism in maintaining this control. Science and technology will genuinely develop only through national industrialization and agricultural modernization, that will be achieved in the national-democratic revolution with a socialist perspective. AB

NPA harassment operations in South Cotabato and Negros Oriental

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) recently reported that its units launched harassment operations in South Cotabato and Negros Oriental during the last quarter of 2025.

The NPA-South Cotabato fired at the 105th IB troopers in Sitio Kangko, Barangay Lamlahak, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on December 11, 2025 at 12:50 a.m. The military unit had been encamped and operating in the said barangay for seven months.

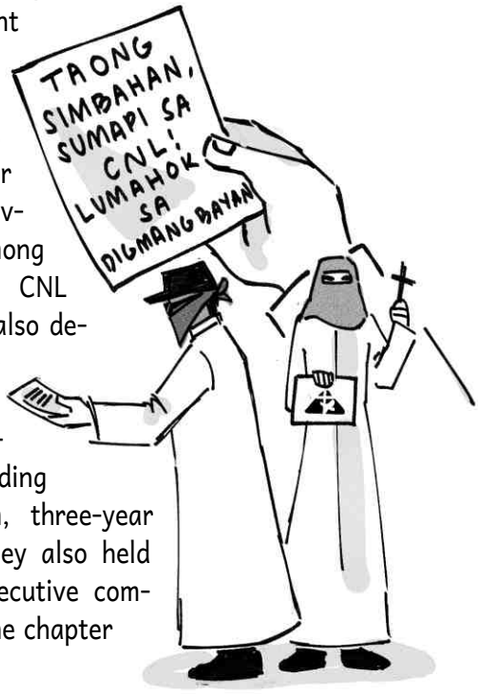
In Negros Oriental, the NPA-Central Negros (Leonardo Panaligan Command) immediately responded and attacked the 62nd IB troopers who ruthlessly shot at a civilian in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental on November 21, 2025. Five 62nd IB soldiers reportedly fired at peasant Rene Nellas at around 10 a.m. in Sitio Columbia while tending his field. Nellas safely escaped.

A nearby NPA-Central Negros unit caught the military unaware. "Upon hearing the gunfire, the Red fighters immediately maneuvered and harassed the five fascist soldiers," NPA-Central Negros spokesperson Ka JB Regalado said.

CNL-Compatriots launches assembly

CHRISTIANS FOR NATIONAL Liberation-Compatriots (CNL-Compatriots) was successfully established in the US in October 2025. The chapter is the very first sub-sector under the Compatriots to hold a global assembly.

Around 120 church leaders from various chapters and cells of the CNL-Compatriots gathered in the assembly, along with observers from the Compatriots-National Democratic Front, Kabataang Makabayan-Compatriots, Makibaka-Compatriots, and others. Chapters of CNL-Compatriots also held simultaneous gatherings in different countries.



The meeting discussed the Compatriots congress held this year and the progress of the revolutionary movement among Filipino migrants. The CNL leader in the Philippines also delivered a statement. Participants studied and discussed the organization's documents, including its orientation, program, three-year plan, and campaigns. They also held elections and formed executive committees and councils at the chapter and global levels.

Filipino migrants win struggle for job security

SUPPORTED BY MIGRANTE Manitoba's campaign and the community, 17 Filipino mechanics in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada won their right to job security. They were dismissed by 4Tracks Ltd without legal basis just three weeks after they started working for the company.

Venture Management in the Philippines recruited the Filipinos as truck mechanics. Upon arriving in Canada, they were made to perform tasks beyond the agreed scope and under unsafe conditions. This included working in winter without adequate protection. They were made to operate heavy equipment, including welding tools, without proper training or gear. They were housed in cramped rooms, with some forced to sleep on the floor with only cardboard padding. They also suffered verbal abuse and threats meant to prevent them from resisting.

In the US, the Tanggol Migrante Movement successfully stopped the planned deportation of Kuya G on December 7, 2025, and Tita Rebecca on January 2. They are Filipino immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. While in detention, they suffered medical neglect that led to severe illnesses and complications. The doctors said their health is in critical condition, and forcing them to travel could kill them.

Opposing the corrupt and fascist 2026 budget. Progressive groups protested in Mendiola on January 5 to denounce the corrupt and fascist 2026 budget signed by Ferdinand Marcos Jr on that day. They also rallied on December 29, 2025 at the House of Representatives in Quezon City when the budget was being railroaded for ratification. The budget is riddled with pork barrel, unprogrammed appropriations, and confidential funds intended for corruption and fascism.

Anti-privatization in Baguio City. After several months of resistance, the people compelled the withdrawal of the plan to privatize and "mallify" the Baguio City public market. On January 3, the local government announced that SM Prime Holding Inc had withdrawn its plan to take over the market. The city council is set to vote on the privatization of the said market on January 9. Groups will hold another demonstration on that day.

Opposition to the closure of Pasay City market. More than 200 vendors and over 500 workers, porters, and tricycle drivers condemned the closure of the Wowee Market in Pasay City on December 19, 2025. The local government closed it for alleged violations and lack of permits. Hundreds will lose their livelihood, and residents who depend on it will be deprived of more affordable goods.

Anti-demolition in a Pasig City community. Residents of Leona Compound in Nagpayong, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City stood firm on January 5 against the local government's eviction. Constructing a hospital and a school is planned in the area. The residents oppose the demolition for not having a designated relocation site.

Anti-corruption alliance returns to Luneta. The Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (KBKK, or People's Movement Against Corruption) once again went to Luneta Park in Manila to offer flowers and pay tribute to Dr. Jose Rizal's death anniversary on December 30, 2025. Luneta Park saw the anti-corruption protest of 100,000 people on September 21, 2025 and over 20,000 people on November 30, 2025 led by the KBKK and its allied groups.

Military terrorism towards end of 2025

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) relentlessly spread terrorism and attacked communities and citizens even during Christmas and New Year. Before 2025 ended, cases of killings, abductions, arrests, and other human rights violations were recorded.

Killing. AFP troopers at close range shot woman peasant leader Warlita Jimenez, 55, in Sitio Makilo, Barangay Camansi, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental on December 23, 2025. She was the wife of peasant leader Joseph Jimenez, who was killed by the 15th IB on November 30, 2022.

Abduction. State forces abducted National Democratic Front-Cagayan Valley (NDF-CV) staff member Scarlet Lyne Gayo. She was last seen in Cavite on December 9, 2025, and remains unreachable. The NDF-CV expresses concern for Gayo's safety and life.

Arrest. In Occidental Mindoro, combined police forces and the 76th IB arrested Ramon "Monet" Alcantara in Barangay San Vicente, Abra de Ilog on December 23, 2025. He is accused of being involved in a clash between the 76th IB and the NPA. Alcantara actively opposed mining in Mindoro and promoted the rights of the indigenous Mangyan people to their ancestral lands. He ran for mayor of Abra de Ilog in the 2022 elections.

In Baguio City, police arrested Kilusang Mayo Uno-Cordillera spokesperson Mike Cabangon on December 27, 2025. He was charged with "terrorism financing." He was released after posting bail.

In Manila, the police rearrested Ryan Ombrog on December 18, 2025, for arson. Ombrog is among more than 270 people arrested after the anti-corruption protest on September 21, 2025.

Shooting. In Leyte, residents of Barangay Villa Corazon, Burauen complained in December 2025 about repeated indiscriminate firing by the CAFGU (Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit) in their community. They said the CAFGU members often wantonly fired their guns in their camp late at night or early in the morning. Residents also raised concern over the CAFGU members' drinking sprees inside the military camp.

Harassment. A few days before Christmas, the 62nd IB swarmed and launched relentless attacks on communities in Guihulngan City and Moises Padilla on Negros Island. For ten days starting December 13, 2025, its elements illegally entered and searched homes, intimidated and threatened, and killed a carabao. AB

Visit to political prisoners in December

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS LAUNCHED a broad campaign to visit and gather support for the Philippine political prisoners in December 2025. Human rights defenders, relatives of political prisoners, church people, lawyers, youth, women, workers, and international groups took action and joined the campaign.

Visits were reported to prisons in Northern Luzon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Laguna, Metro Manila, Iloilo, Tacloban City, Butuan City, North Cotabato, and Davao City. The political prisoners received food, hygiene items, medicine, and letters expressing support for their struggle for freedom.

The Philippines has nearly 700 political prisoners, more than 160 of whom were arrested during the Marcos regime. This includes at least 136 women prisoners, 93 elderly, and 89 ailing individuals.

Talaingod 13 verdict criminalizes defending Lumad rights

"UNJUST AND UNACCEPTABLE" is how minority rights defenders, human rights groups, lawyers, and others described the Court of Appeals (CA) confirmation of the verdict against the Talaingod 13. The court convicted the Talaingod 13 of "child abuse" on July 15, 2024. The CA in Cagayan de Oro affirmed the verdict on December 16. On January 6, the Talaingod 13 filed a motion for reconsideration before the CA to challenge the confirmation.

The Talaingod 13 was a group that rescued Lumad teachers and students in Talaingod, Davao del Norte on November 28, 2018. The delegation included former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro, Ma. Eugenia Victoria Nolasco, and nine other former teachers.

According to the indigenous people, the unjust decision against the Talaingod 13 directly attacks them, and is part of a broader state strategy to silence supporters of indigenous peoples' struggles.

"No child and no parent filed a complaint. No harm was proven, yet the teachers were convicted," former Rep. Eufemia Cullamat said.

Japan's war preparation rises to a new level of militarism

On December 26, 2025, the Japanese government led by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi approved the allocation of 9 trillion yen or US$58 billion for the country's defense budget in 2026. This is equivalent to 2% of Japan's total national production. This catapulted Japan to third place among the countries with the largest defense budgets in the world, following the US and China.

The military budget increase rests on Japan's National Security Strategy (NSS) formulated in 2022. Japan expanded its defense budget at the behest of the US. Reaching the 2% defense spending target was originally planned for 2027. However, the US compelled the Takaichi government to implement it ahead of schedule.

Imperialist Japan's ruling class has long dreamed of restoring its "former glory." Increasing military spending provides the Japanese government hope to revive its three-decade stagnant economy. As an imperialist power, it needs to expand its sources of raw materials, influence, and territory to invest its surplus capital.

In 2023, Japan formed its own Free and Open Indo-Pacific plan to shape the strengthening of its military presence and expanding its influence in Asia. It signed with Marcos the lopsided military agreement between the Philippines and Japan called the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA). This was endorsed and supported by the Senate, including Akbayan's pro-US senator Risa Hontiveros.

Strengthening Japan's war power

The NSS includes the purchase and development of missile systems to strengthen the country's defense. Goaded by the US, Japan also purchased a "package" of missiles worth $3.64 billion in January 2025.

In November 2025, Japan again bought weapons from the US, including bombs and ammunition for the fighter planes of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force worth US$82 million.

An aging and shrinking population, and the difficulty of maintaining a large number of troops, prompted the Japanese government to focus on building unmanned weapons systems. To strengthen coastal defense, it plans to build a large number of aerial, underwater and sea-surface drones for surveillance and defense. The system is called SHIELD (Synchronized, Hybrid, Integrated and Enhanced Littoral Defence). This also includes larger drones for airspace defense, "standoff" missiles, and surface-to-ship missiles. These missiles can hit targets up to 1,000 kilometers away.

The Japanese government also aims to revive the defense industry through joint projects and arms sales to other countries. In 2026, it plans to allot 160 billion yen (US$1 billion) to develop a "6th generation fighter jet" with Britain and Italy under the Global Combat Air Programme. The projects also include artificial intelligence-controlled drones that can fly alongside jets.

The Japanese government plans to raise defense funds by increasing corporate and tobacco taxes, and by raising employees' income taxes in 2027.

Japanese people's resistance

In recent months, the Japanese people have launched protest actions against their government's growing militarism. Filipino migrants under Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Migrante joined these actions.

The groups called on all Japanese workers, peace advocates, and all migrants and immigrants in Japan to unite and resist the Japanese government's militarist trajectory. They said the ruling class must not be allowed to use "nationalism" to divide the people. AB